

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NIC-01 DRC-01 /138 W

----- 118554

R 161525Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 858

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT SW

SUBJECT: COMMUNISTS ANNOUNCE CONDITIONS TO COOPERATE WITH
SOCIAL DEMOCRATS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. IN A SPEECH BEFORE THE PARTY EXECUTIVE OCT 16 LEFT
COMMUNIST PARTY (VPK) LEADER HERMANSSON OUTLINED "DEMANDS"
HIS PARTY WILL MAKE UPON THE GOVERNMENT IN THE FUTURE
AND STATED THAT MEETING THEN WOULD BE CONDITION OF FURTHER
VPK SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT IN RIKSDAG. HE CALLED FOR CON-
TINUED FIGHT AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT, A HALT IN PRICE AND
RENT INCREASES, SHORTER WORK-WEEK, LOWER RETIREMENT AGE,
TAX REFORM "IN DEMOCRATIC DIRECTIONS," MORE LABOR INFLU-
ENCE IN DECISIONS ABOUT WORK CONDITIONS, AND A LOWERING
OF DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. ABROAD HE CALLED FOR A HALT TO
"IMPOVERISHMENT BY SWEDISH BIG FINANCE OF PEOPLES OF
AFRICA, ASIA, AND LATIN AMERICA" AND MORE SUPPORT FOR
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

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2. HERMANSSON FURTHER SAID HIS PARTY WOULD ENERGETICALLY

FIGHT EVERY SOCDEM CONCESSION TO THE RIGHT AND SAID THAT SOCDEM COOPERATION WITH LIBERAL OR CENTER PARTIES COULD ONLY LEAD TO A NEW AND MORE SERIOUS DEFEAT IN NEXT RIKSDAG ELECTION. "INSTEAD THE GOVERNMENT MUST CARRY ON CONSISTENT LABOR POLICIES, ATTACK THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM AND LET THE BOURGEOIS PARTIES FACE THE CONSEQUENCES OF A NEW ELECTION IF THEY DEFEAT SUCH POLICIES WITH OR WITHOUT A DRAWING OF LOTS." END UNCLASSIFIED.

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COMMENT: EMBOLDENED WITH HIS INCREASED STRENGTH IN RIKSDAG AFTER SEPT 16 ELECTION (VPK WENT FROM 17 TO 19 SEATS), HERMANSSON IS PUTTING ON RECORD HIS INTENTIONS OF HAVING TAIL WAG DOG WHENEVER POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, HIS PROPOSALS ARE RATHER GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TO SOCDEMS ANYWAY WITH EXCEPTION OF DEFENSE CUTS. GOVERNMENT IS PLEDGED TO MAINTAIN APPROXIMATELY SAME LEVEL OF SPENDING FOR DEFENSE (THOUGH INFLATION COULD ACHIEVE DE FACTO CUTS). THUS, DESPITE TOUGH TALK, VPK WILL CONTINUE IN POSITION IT HELD BEFORE ELECTION OF HAVING TO SUPPORT SOCDEMS ON MOST ISSUES BECAUSE NOT TO DO SO WOULD GIVE BOURGEOIS PARTIES A VICTORY IN RIKSDAG. IN THIS REGARD PALME STILL HAS UPPER HAND OVER VPK, BUT WITH THEIR INCREASED STRENGTH HE WILL PROBABLY FEEL THE NECESSITY OF AT LEAST BROADENING HIS CONSULTATION WITH THEM; AND INCREASED VOCAL OUTPUT FROM VPK WILL GIVE PALME SOME DIFFICULTY FROM HIS OWN LEFT WING WHEN HE FINDS IT NECESSARY TO COOPERATE WITH ONE OR THE OTHER OF BOURGEOIS PARTIES ON CERTAIN ISSUES, E.G. DEFENSE. ALTOGETHER, HERMANSSON'S DECLARATION HAS NOT MADE PALME'S TASK OF GOVERNING EASIER.

DOZIER

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